

GUN AND MORTAR PLATFORMS.

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L E T T E R

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

TRANSMITTING

*An estimate of appropriation submitted by the Secretary of War for gun and mortar platforms.*

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JANUARY 11, 1893.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

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TREASURY DEPARTMENT,  
*January 9, 1893.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the consideration of Congress, copy of a communication from the Secretary of War, of the 7th instant, submitting an estimate of appropriation for gun and mortar platforms, \$50,000.

Respectfully, yours,

CHARLES FOSTER,  
*Secretary.*

THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

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WAR DEPARTMENT,  
*Washington, January 7, 1893.*

SIR: I have the honor to forward herewith, for transmission to Congress, an estimate (\$50,000) for gun and mortar platforms required for the use of the War Department for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1894, together with the letter of the Chief of Engineers, U. S. Army, of the 6th instant, fully explaining the necessity for an appropriation for this object.

Very respectfully,

S. B. ELKINS,  
*Secretary of War.*

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS,  
UNITED STATES ARMY,  
Washington, D. C., January 6, 1893.

SIR: The latest approved projects for defending the coasts of the United States against attack by a hostile naval force contemplate the use of vertical fire from rifled mortars. The attack delivered by this ordnance is upon the decks of vessels, and is one of the most dangerous that a ship can receive.

The projected defenses of the harbors of our coasts contemplate the construction of emplacements for 12-inch rifled mortars, and of these emplacements forty-eight are now approaching completion, and during the coming working season will need but the construction of platforms to render them ready to receive their armament.

The armament will consist of mortars and their carriages. Of these carriages twenty will be ready next September. More than that number of mortars will be ready. The estimated cost of construction of twenty mortar platforms is \$50,000. At present no modern ordnance is in position in any fortifications of the United States. It is unnecessary to urge the importance of mounting such ordnance as it is manufactured and the fortifications are completed for it.

It is therefore recommended that the Secretary of War submit to Congress a special estimate of \$50,000, to be applied to the construction of gun and mortar platforms.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. LINCOLN CASEY,  
*Brigadier-General, Chief of Engineers.*

Hon. S. B. ELKINS,  
*Secretary of War.*

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*Estimates of appropriations required for the service of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1894,  
by the Chief of Engineers.*

Gun and mortar platforms:

For construction of gun and mortar platforms (submitted) ..... \$50,000

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